

USSN 10/765,652

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REMARKS

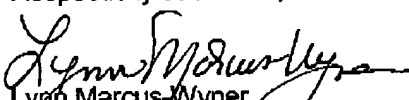
With entry of the instant amendment claims 30 – 42 and 51 – 60 are pending. Original claims 1 – 29 and claims 43 – 50, which were submitted with the first preliminary amendment have been canceled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to file further continuation applications on the subject matter of any canceled claim.

Independent claim 30 has been amended a) to include cellulase as a substrate-converting enzyme, b) define the substrate as cellulosic material comprising plant residues and c) to clarify that in this embodiment the contacting steps takes place in the same reaction vessel wherein the intermediate which comprises pentoses and hexoses is bioconverted to the end-product. All pending claims depend from claim 30. Claims 31 and 40 have also been amended to define the substrate as cellulosic material comprising plant residues. New dependent claims 51 – 60, which further define embodiments of the invention, find support through out the disclosure. Applicants assert no new matter has been added by said claims.

The Examiner's attention is directed to examples 17 – 20, which discloses the bioconversion of cellulosic biomass to end-products. More specifically, examples 18 – 20 are directed to the fermentative bioconversion of biomass using enzymes with cellulase activity and strains of bacteria produce to 1, 3-propanediol (example 18); lactic acid (example 19) or succinic acid (example 20).

Applicants believe claims 30 – 42 and 51 – 60 are in condition for allowance and an early allowance is kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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